

# Sermon Outline

## WHAT SHOULD CHURCH BE LIKE? ... | Geoff Lin

Readings: 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 (p.1639), 1 Cor 12:12-20 (p.1636), 1 Peter 2:9-12 (p.1728)

Talk 1: What's the point of church? (A. *To praise and worship God for His glorious grace*)

Talk 2: Whose church is it anyway? (A. *"Christ's people gathered around God's Word"*)

### 1. Church should be \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_

#### i. Church leadership structures

Eph 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

#### ii. our Sunday Gatherings

1 Cor 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. *Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*<sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.<sup>28</sup> If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.<sup>29</sup> Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.<sup>30</sup> And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.<sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.<sup>32</sup> The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.<sup>33</sup> *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace*—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

#### No mention of ... *personal preference when it comes to style of worship*

"Meeting together to serve one another subverts our self-focused culture; it subverts our personal desires and ambitions." (Deenick, *Gathered Together*)

### 2. Church should be \_\_\_\_\_

1 Cor 12:12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.<sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.<sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?<sup>18</sup> *But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*<sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be?<sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

unity ≠ uniformity

"The bible never encourages us to think of church as a place where there are lots of people "like me". On the contrary, it is characterized as a place where people are "not like me": Jew, Gentile, male, female, slave, free, from every tribe and language and people and nation". (Deenick, *Gathered Together*)

Gal 3:26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,<sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

#### Practical suggestion for next week: *talk to someone not like you*

"A place where God is forming family out of strangers" (Hauerwas and Willimon, *Resident Aliens*)

### 3. Church should be \_\_\_\_\_

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.<sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, *they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Mt 5:14 *You are the light of the world.* A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.<sup>16</sup> In the same way, *let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

"The world must strike hard against something which is an alternative" (Hauerwas & Willimon, *Resident Aliens*)

"When church members' feet are firmly fixed on the path of light, their lives will reflect the glory and majesty of the one who is the light. Your daily actions, attitudes, conversations, thoughts, and works will reflect a light-filled Christlikeness" (Benge, *Why should we love the local church?*)

**For discussion:** which of these 3 images best resonates with you? How might you change in response?